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GB 2055950 A

GB 1267684

GB 1143377

GB 1054709

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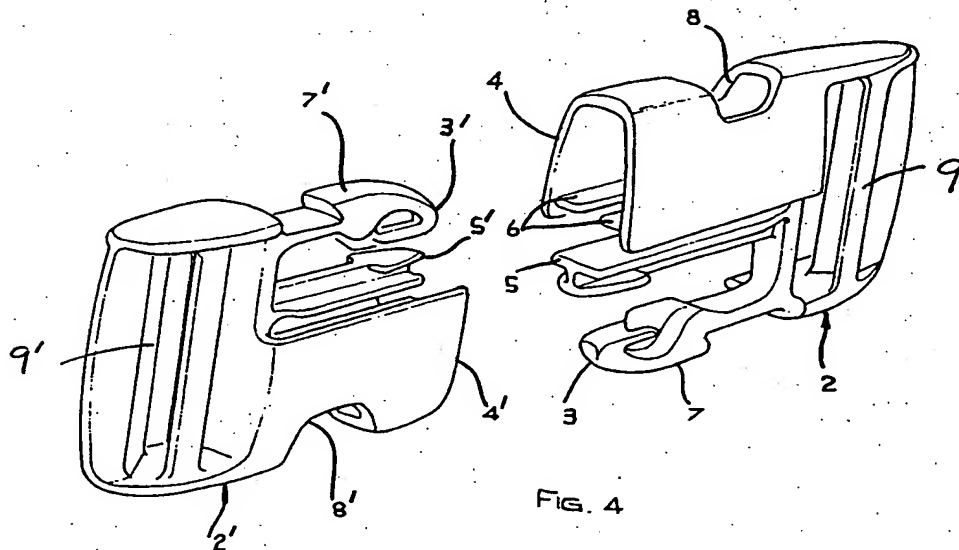
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(54) Snap action buckles

(57) A snap action buckle is formed of two identical parts 2, 2' each of which has a male member 3, 3' and a female member 4, 4'. The male member of the one part is adapted to engage by snap action the female member of the other part. The fact that the two parts 2, 2' forming the buckle are identical substantially simplifies both the manufacture of said parts and their storage.



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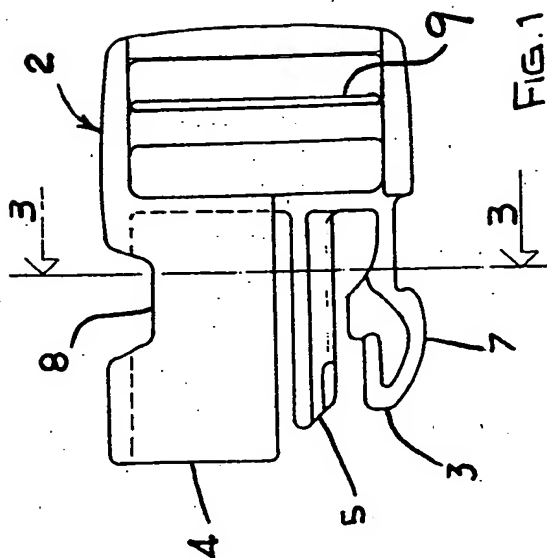


FIG. 1

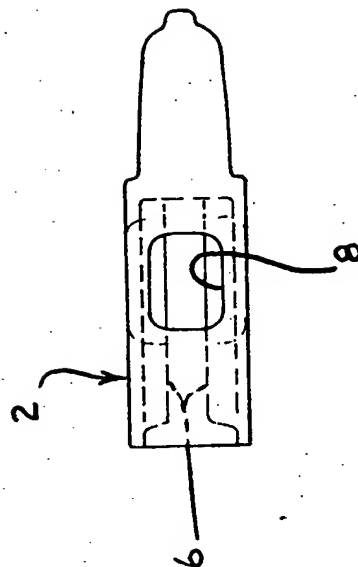


FIG. 2 1/2

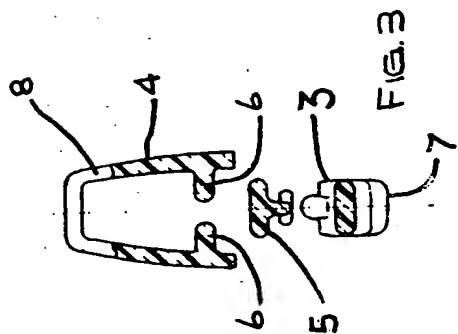


FIG. 3

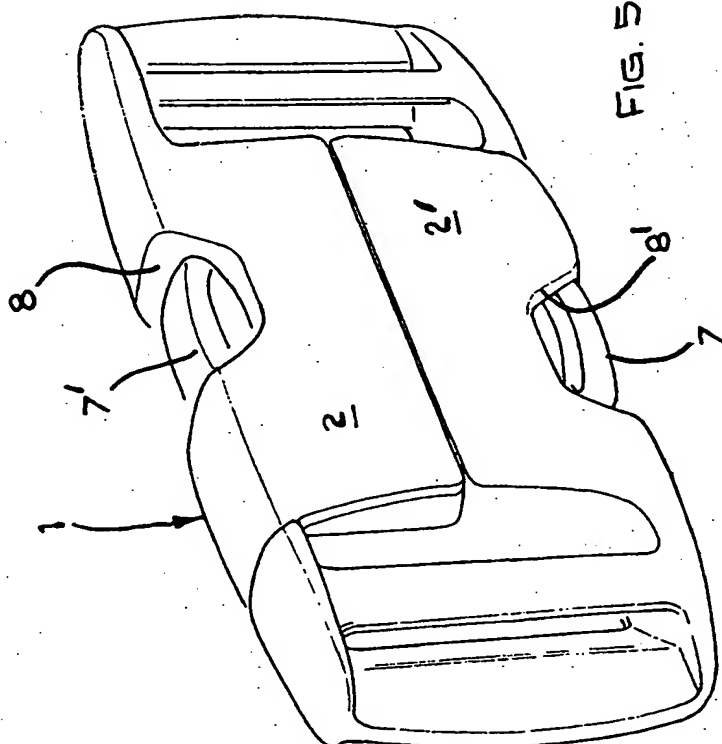
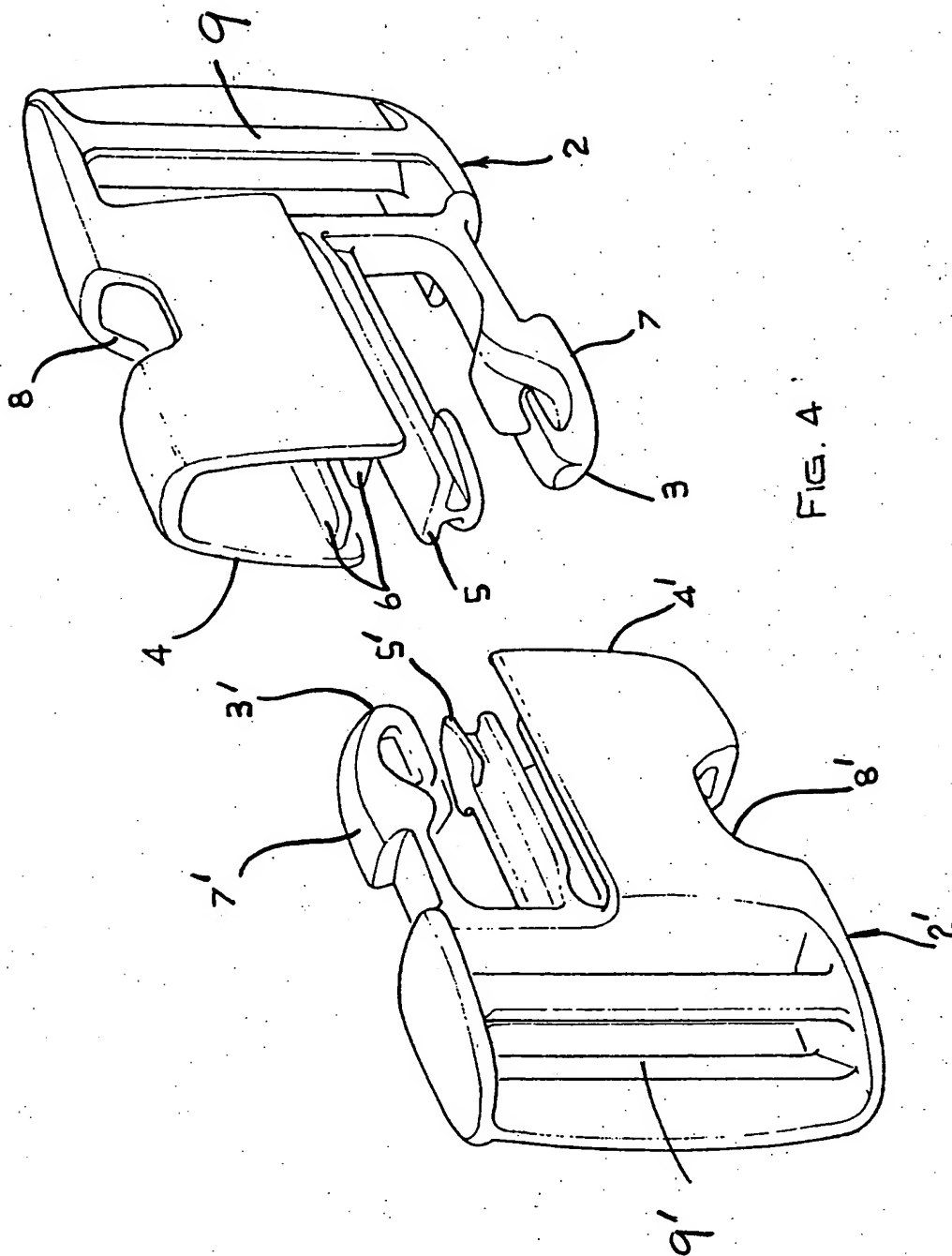


FIG. 5

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2/2

SPECIFICATION

Snap action buckles

5 All known snap action buckles have consisted of a male part adapted to engage a female part. Therefore, two different moulds have been normally required for manufacturing such buckles, one mould for the male part and the other mould for the female part. A typical known snap action buckle is that described and claimed in our parent company's British patent 2 002 445 to which the reader is instructed to refer. However, the present invention is not restricted to the particular constructional details of that typical example. It is the object of the present invention to provide a snap action buckle which is simpler and cheaper to manufacture than all known snap action buckles.

In accordance with the present invention a snap action buckle comprises two identical parts, each having a male member and a female member so that the male member of the one part is adapted to engage by snap action the female member of the other part.

25 This substantially simplifies both the manufacturing steps of the parts forming the buckle and their storage. It is merely sufficient to prepare a single mould for producing a single moulded part and to store a single type of part, with clear advantages of simplicity of manufacture and low cost.

The invention will be better understood from the following detailed description, given merely by way of example and therefore in no limiting sense, of an embodiment thereof, referring to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a front view of one of the two identical parts of the buckle according to the invention;

Figure 2 is a top plan view thereof;

Figure 3 is a transverse cross section along the line 3-3 of Figure 1;

Figure 4 is a perspective view of the two identical parts of the buckle ready to be hooked to one another; and

Figure 5 is a perspective view of the buckle in closed condition.

From the Figures it is seen that the buckle 1, of the snap closure type, consists of two identical parts 2, 2' and therefor it will be sufficient to describe only one of them.

50 The part 2 comprises simultaneously at one end thereof a flexible male member 3 and a female member 4. The male member 3 is formed in a manner known per se and can hook by snap action, in a manner also known per se, the female member 4' of the other part 2' forming the buckle. A portion 7 of the male member 3 projects, with the buckle in closed condition, from a slot 8' provided in the female member 4'.

Each part 2, 2' comprises, in addition, guide elements of a known type, more particularly a rather rigid male guide element 5, adapted to engage a female guide element 6' of the part 2' and a male guide element 5' adapted to engage a female guide element 6 of the part 2.

65 Each part 2, 2' has, in addition, at its other end

slotted means 9, 9' of a known type for adjustably securing each part of the buckle to an end of strip-shaped material, such as a belt, the buckle having precisely the function of connecting said two ends.

70 In order to hook by a snap action the two parts 2, 2' of the buckle 1 the two identical parts 2, 2' of the buckle 1 must be positioned so that the female member 4' of the part 2' corresponds to the male member 3 of the part 2 and the female member 4 of the part 2 corresponds to the male member 3' of the part 2'. It is finally sufficient to press the two parts 2, 2' against one another so that a snap engagement of the male members 3, 3' with the corresponding female members 4, 4' takes place.

80 In order to disconnect the parts 2, 2' and thus open the buckle 1, it will be sufficient to press on the portions 7, 7' of each male member 3, 3' respectively, said portions 7, 7' projecting from the slots 8', 8 respectively of the associated female members 4', 4 so as to deflect the male members 3, 3' inwardly and to disconnect them from the corresponding female members 4', 4.

The materials of which the buckle can be made are 90 those typical for snap closure buckles, such as for example nylon or acetal resins, or other plastics materials.

While but one embodiment of the invention has been illustrated and described, it is obvious that a number of modifications and changes can be made without departing from the scope of the invention. CLAIMS

1. A snap action buckle comprising two identical parts, each having a male member and a female member so that the male member of the one part is adapted to engage by snap action the female member of the other part.

2. A snap action buckle according to claim 1, in which each of the two identical parts is moulded in a plastics material, has a male guide element for engagement with a female guide element on the other part, and has slotted means for use in adjustably securing strip-shaped material thereto.

3. A snap action buckle substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

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